

**LIQUID SEPARATION APPARATUS**

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**Abstract**

**PURPOSE:** To make it possible to shorten a liquid separating time and to accurately perform liquid separation without visually observing the interface, by a method wherein an interface detecting sensor is provided to the lower part of a liquid separation tank or the discharge arranged pipe thereof and a flow control valve is controlled corresponding to the signal of said sensor.

**CONSTITUTION:** A liquid separation starting switch is inputted to issue an order for increasing the opening degree of a flow control valve 5 from a control apparatus 8. When the withdrawal of a lower phase is advanced, the interface of the lower phase and the upper phase is detected by a capacitance interface detector 7 and the signal of the change in the interface is sent to the control apparatus 8. Whereupon, the control apparatus 8 sends an opening reducing command to the flow control valve 5 through a signal line 10 and the valve 5 is throttled. In addition, if the detection of the upper phase is done, the opening of the valve 5 is increased while, if the upper phase is detected, the opening of the valve 5 is decreased and, by repeating these operations, the lower phase is withdrawn to a range not mixing with the upper phase. Subsequently, the mixture of the lower phase and the upper phase is withdrawn and, thereafter, only the upper phase is withdrawn at a proper outflow speed.

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